

ABCConnections

an e-newsletter for ABC Boards in NC

KICK-OFF AT ECU UNVEILS INITIATIVE TO REDUCE UNDERAGE DRINKING

Before a standing room-only crowd at East Carolina University, Governor Pat McCrory officially launched the Initiative to Reduce Underage Drinking Tuesday when he signed an executive order creating the Task Force to Combat Substance Abuse and Underage Drinking.

As a part of the commissioned work, six college campuses in the University of North Carolina (UNC) system will pilot a program concentrating on prevention and treatment. The executive order creates a multi-agency task force aimed at reducing substance abuse and underage drinking. The Governor's Substance Abuse and Underage Drinking Prevention and Treatment Task Force will build on statewide prevention, treatment and enforcement initiatives implemented by the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Commission, Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) Division, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the University of North Carolina System.

"The physical, mental and social costs of addiction can last a lifetime," Governor McCrory said. "Substance abuse often starts in a person's youth which is why we are targeting our efforts on early intervention and treatment."



A standing-room only crowd including representatives from the Pitt, Wayne, Lenoir and Wilson County ABC Boards and other dignitaries, watches as Governor Pat McCrory signs the executive order establishing the task force overseeing the Initiative to Reduce Underage

The governor signed the executive order at East Carolina University (ECU), one of six UNC campuses that will take part in a pilot program that will emphasize prevention and treatment. ECU will join UNC-Chapel Hill, North Carolina A&T, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Wilmington and UNC-Greensboro in the pilot.

"Substance abuse is much broader than the use of illegal narcotics," said DHHS Secretary Aldona Vos. "There is growing abuse of prescription drugs and alcohol, particularly among our young people. If we are to be successful in helping young people stay out of crisis, steps must be taken to reverse this alarming and dangerous trend."

UNC-Charlotte is a national leader in on-campus prevention and treatment. It is the first UNC institution to establish a campus recovery center, and provide scholarships to students receiving substance abuse treatment. The task force will also build on statewide enforcement efforts by ALE to crack down on licensed establishments that violate state laws.

"Underage drinking is not a simple rite of passage," said Department of Public Safety (DPS) Secretary Frank L. Perry. "One of our main goals is to stop minors from purchasing, possessing and using alcohol, and to stop others from procuring alcohol for minors. Many people do not realize the physical and mental damage drinking can cause, or the danger it can present to others. We will continue to educate ABC permitted establishments, youth, family and friends on North Carolina alcohol laws to heighten awareness of the consequences of underage alcohol use."

The ABC Commission will concentrate on preventing underage drinking among middle, high school and underage college students. For more information visit <http://www.reduceunderagedrinking.com/>.

“It’s going to take a culture shift to address the issue of underage drinking in North Carolina,” said ABC Chairman Jim Gardner. “We’re uniting everyone: parents, students, educators, law enforcement, industry, the prevention community and concerned citizens of our state. We’re going to work together on a full-scale campaign to raise awareness, equip parents with the resources they need, and as a result, reduce underage drinking across the state.”

During the event, Harrisburg Mayor Steven Sciascia shared a personal story of the tragic consequences of underage drinking. Joseph Sciascia, the mayor’s 19-year-old son, was killed in a 2011 car accident in which he was a passenger. The driver of the car - also 19 and Joseph’s best friend - was intoxicated.

ABC Chairman Gardner and DPS Secretary Perry will lead the Governor’s Substance Abuse and Underage Drinking Prevention and Treatment Task Force.



ABC Commission Chairman Jim Gardner speaks at the ECU news conference announcing the launch of the NC Initiative to Reduce Underage Drinking.



Spotlight on Billy Gene Beatty

Walnut Cove ABC

Papa Bill, as Billy Gene Beatty is known to the customers and employees of the Walnut Cove ABC store, has been a part-time employee since the store opened in 1970. He celebrated his 83rd birthday on February 2, and has never slowed down even when battling health issues. He remains faithful to the ABC store, looks forward to going to work every day, and particularly enjoys carrying on conversations with the many customers who visit the store.

He retired from AT&T in 1990 and also is a veteran of the United States Army. In his spare time, Beatty enjoys fishing, hunting and eating a good home-cooked meal. His family includes three daughters, three step-daughters, 13 grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

As long as his health permits, Papa Bill tells the board he plans to continue to work at the Walnut Cove ABC store and to serve the citizens of Walnut Cove and surrounding areas. The Board of Directors for the Walnut Cove ABC Store takes great pride in having such a committed employee who is an excellent role model for all the employees of our small town store.

Recent Retirements:

Linda Rogers, Edgecombe County
Sandra Baty, Highlands
Rod Page, Lumberton
Michael Manning, Martin County
Ed Doughty, Weaverville

RETIREMENTS

ABC Commission and local boards across North Carolina are focusing on underage drinking reduction in their communities. Please send examples that relate to underage drinking to Luther Snyder at Luther.Snyder@abc.nc.gov. If you have retirement announcements, newsletter article suggestions or other questions, contact Agnes Stevens at agnes.stevens@abc.nc.gov by the 15th of the month.